Site 11. SAN LUIS OBISPO 3R D-NODE

Environmental Checklist

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

1. Facility Title:
Level 3 Communications Infrastructure Project, San Luis Obispo 3R D-Node

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:
California Public Utilities Commission
Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 703-2782

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Gary Finni, Level 3 Communications, LLC
6689 Owens Drive, Suite A, Pleasanton, CA 94588
(925) 398-30o0

4. Facility Location:
The subject property is located at 3550 Broad Street, within the City of San Luis Obispo. The parcel is bordered on the west, north, and east by Broad Street, Capitolio Way, Sacramento Drive, respectively. It is separated from Industrial Way, to the south, by separate parcel. A site vicinity map is provided as Figure 11-1. A site plot plan is provided as Figure 11-2. Additional site maps and detail are provided in the PEA (PEA, 2000, following p. 11-42).

5. Proponent's Name and Address:
Level 3 Communications, LLC ("Level 3")
1450 Infinite Drive, Louisville, CO 80027
(303) 926-3000

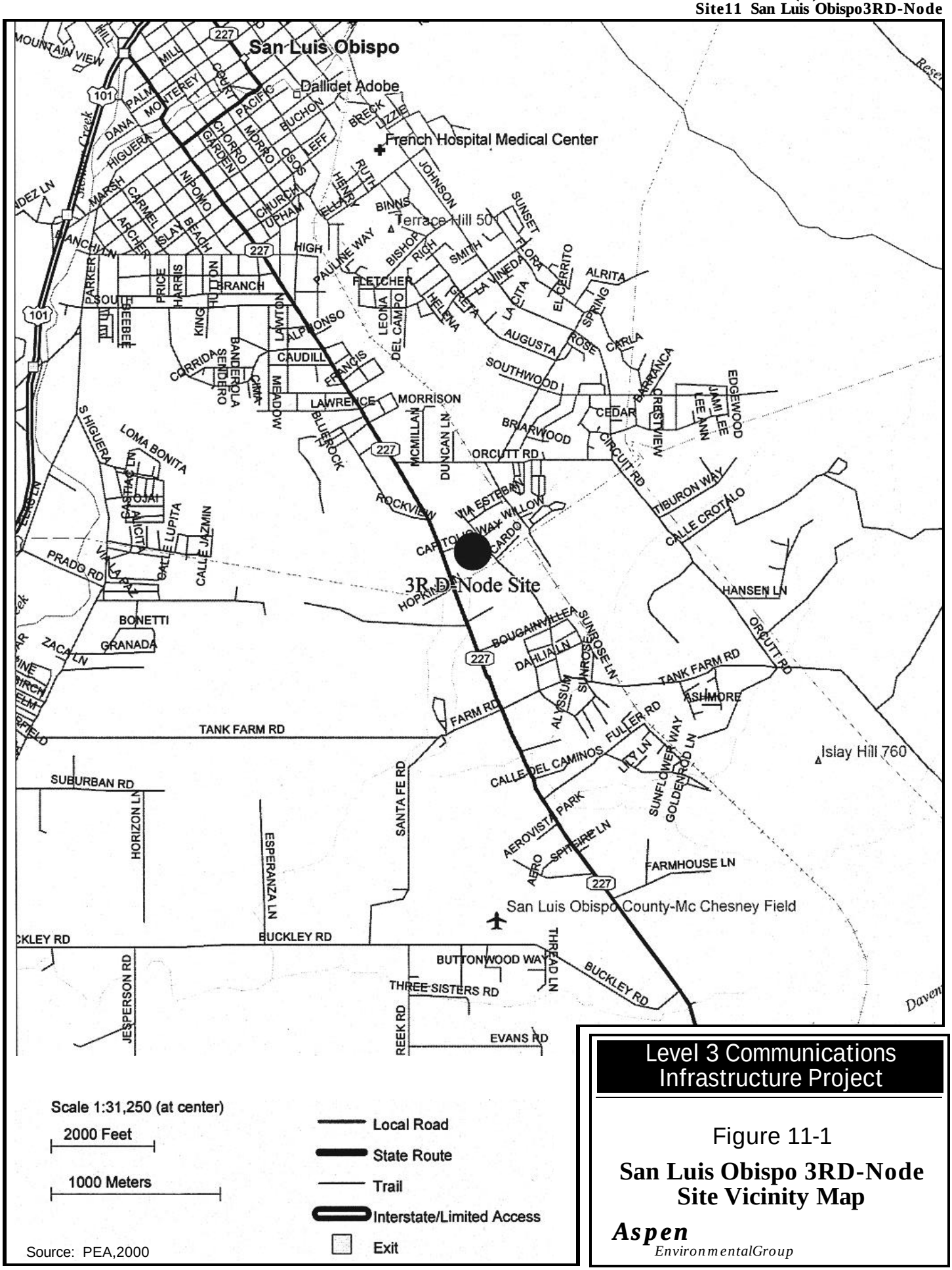
6. General Plan Designation: Services and Manufacturing

7. Zoning: Commercial-Service (C-S)

8. Description of Facility:
This checklist evaluates the design, construction, and operation of the San Louis Obispo 3R D-Node, which will be constructed on a site outside of existing utility corridors.

The San Louis Obispo 3R D-Node will be constructed on a developed 4.31-acre site with a 29,295 square foot building. The 3R D-Node electronics will be placed in the building after interior walls and any glass windows are removed. An equipment yard will be constructed adjacent to the building to contain an emergency generator and five mechanical coolers.

The 3R portion of this facility will provide regeneration, re-timing, and re-modulating of the optical signal. The Level 3 Communications Infrastructure network is connected to local communication systems through distribution nodes (D-Node). The larger size of a D-node (compared to an In-Line Amplification (ILA) or 3R facility) is due to the additional equipment needed to connect the fiber optic network to local telecommunications systems. The facility will also provide signal amplification capabilities similar to those of an ILA.



Level 3 Communications Infrastructure Project

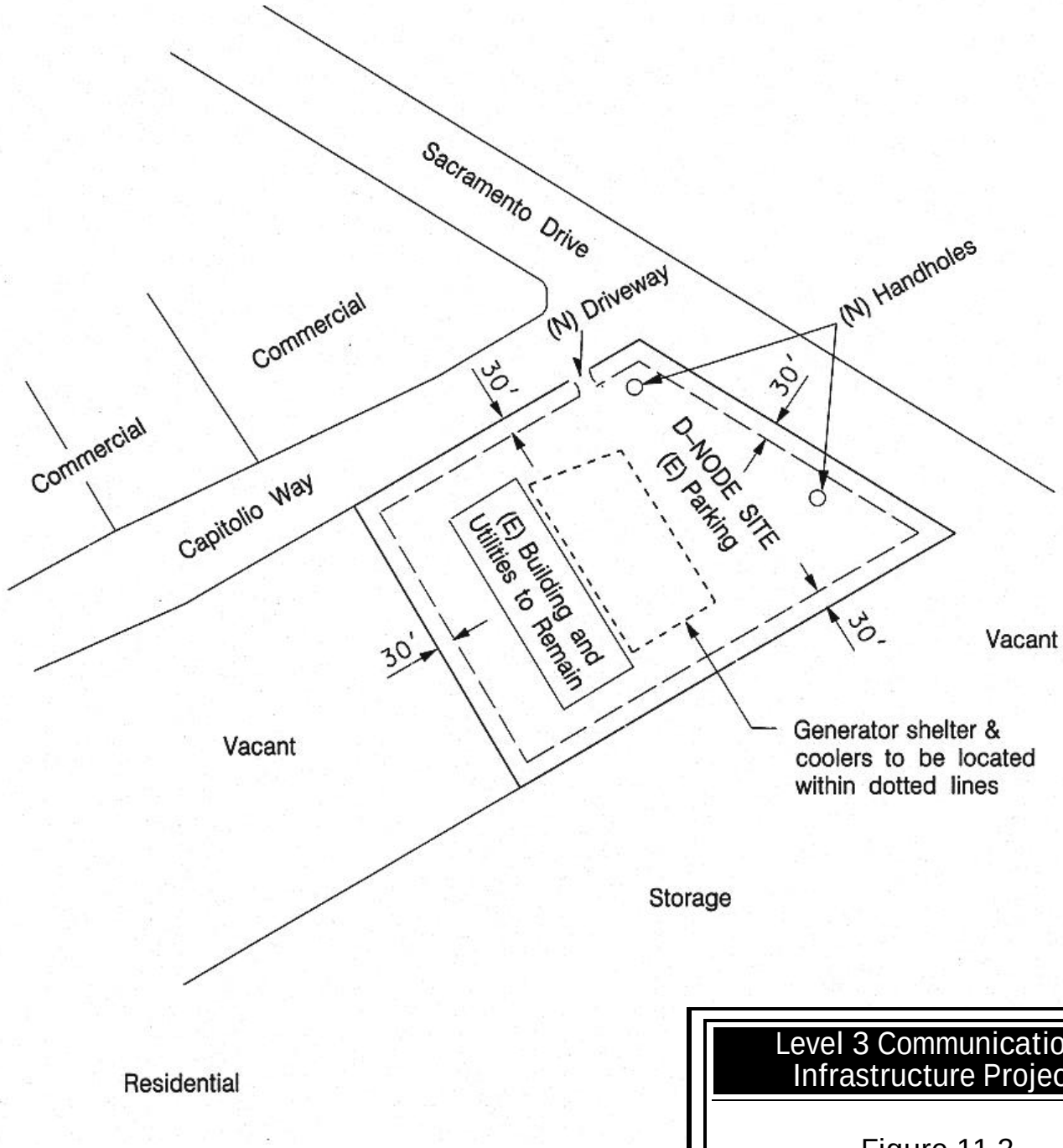
Figure 11-1

San Luis Obispo 3RD-Node Site Vicinity Map

Aspen Environmental Group

(N) DRIVEWAY TO BE CONSTRUCTED PER CALTRANS STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

ELECTRICAL, TELEPHONE, WATER AND SEWER TO BE DISTRIBUTED EITHER FROM ON–SITE EXISTING OR FROM EXISTING IN STREET PER NEC AND LOCAL CODES (ON–SITE UTILITIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED UNDERGROUND)



Source: PEA,2000

Level 3 Communications Infrastructure Project

Figure 11-2

San Luis Obispo 3RD-Node Conceptual Plot Plan

Aspen *EnvironmentalGroup*

One 1,750-kilowatt (kW), (2,500 horsepower (hp) diesel-powered generator will provide emergency power to the building. The size of the pre-cast concrete generator enclosure will be based on local noise restrictions but will be approximately 13 feet wide and 38 feet long (494 square feet) and 14 feet high. The generator shelter will be assembled at the site and installed on a concrete foundation. This generator will be sufficient to handle the standby power requirements of the 3R D-Node facility. The double-walled storage tank on which the engine/generator set is mounted is designed to support the weight of the engine/generator set and this mounting is a common design for emergency engine/generators. For engine/generator sets that are operated more frequently, the fuel tank is mounted separate from the engine/generator sets that are operated more frequently, the fuel tank is mounted separate from the engine/generator since greater fuel storage capability is required and the storage tank would be too large to be located beneath the engine/generator (PEA, 2000, p. 11-2). The generator will be mounted on a 3,400-gallon, double-walled, above-ground belly storage tank that is approximately 13 feet long by 8 feet wide by 3 feet 8 inches high. Tank system design incorporates a high fuel alarm (local) and a tank rupture alarm (remote).

During operation at 100% load, each generator consumes approximately 118 gallons of diesel fuel per hour (gph). At 75% load, fuel consumption rate is approximately 88 gph. During most of the 30 minutes of testing and maintenance run time each week, the generators will run at 50-percent load. However, for the purposes of this "worst-case" calculation, a 75-percent load and 30 hours of run time each year (i.e., 1/2-hour/week times 52 weeks, plus four hours contingency) is assumed. Therefore, 30 hours per year multiplied by 88 gph equals 2,640 gallons of diesel fuel consumption per year for testing and maintenance.

Each generator will be equipped with a spill tray beneath the filling port and a spill emergency response kit. The kit will consist of a 55-gallon drum containing oil-absorbing booms and pads, tarps, duct tape, and shovels. These materials will be placed near the filling port for immediate access should a release occur. A laminated placard listing the number of an emergency response contractor and appropriate spill-reporting procedures will be contained in the drum and will also be displayed near the filling port. Should a release occur that cannot be managed by Level 3 personnel, a contractor will be called to respond.

Technical staff will be trained in safety and spill-response procedures that should be implemented during diesel oil deliveries. These written procedures will define the necessary steps for use and disposal of spill containment equipment located at the site. A Level 3 technician will accompany any third party contractor delivering fuel. Because the facilities are kept locked, a Level 3 technician will unlock/lock the security gate during ingress and egress. The technician will advise the contractor as to the location of the filling port(s) for the generator tank(s), describe the site safety requirements, observe the fueling process, and listen for the high fuel alarm. Should a release occur, the Level 3 technician will immediately initiate containment and cleanup procedures.

The 3R D-Node site will be permanently staffed with up to three employees. A driveway providing access from Capitolio Way will be provided, as well as adequate parking for staff. No additional buildings will be constructed. Control and maintenance functions will occur within the proposed facilities. Fencing around the equipment yard will be of chain link construction and will be nine feet tall.

The San Luis Obispo 3R D-Node will require electricity, telephone, sewer, and water hookups. Utility lines supporting these capabilities are located on utility poles along the south side of the property. Telephone service would be provided at the site by either hard-wired, cellular, or satellite-link service. Normal electrical power will be provided, consisting of 2000-amp, 480-volt, three-phase service. All onsite utility lines will run underground. Water and sewer connections to municipal systems will be installed per local code. Stormwater drainage and fire protection equipment would be installed per local codes.

The fiber optic cable, to which the facility will be connected, is located in the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Right-of-Way (ROW). The connection to the facility from the running line will utilize existing utility corridors including public streets. The route will travel west along Orcutt to Highway 227, south along Highway 227, east along Capitolio Way and enter the property from the north. The line will exit the property along the east side to Sacramento Drive and follow Sacramento Drive south to the intersection with Industrial Way, then east along Industrial Way to the UPRR ROW. The connection to the 3R D-Node facility will be installed at a depth of approximately 42 inches either by plowing in the conduit (which does not require a trench) or by digging a trench, laying the conduit, and then back-filling the trench. Estimates of average daily traffic for these roads are not available.

Demolition debris from walls and windows and a minor amount of asphalt to be removed under the generator pad is estimated to be approximately 200 cubic yards.

Current and potential cumulative projects in the vicinity of the proposed San Luis Obispo 3R D-Node site are provided in Table 11-1 of the PEA (PEA, 2000, follows p. 11-42). Criteria for inclusion of a project in the cumulative impact assessment are as follows:

- Projects that are within two miles of the site. In some cases these projects are in more than one jurisdiction
- Projects that are scheduled for construction from one year before to one year after the "construction window" for the project facilities, or between March 1999 to March 2003
- Current projects that include those which have been approved by the lead agency and have had their environmental document signed, approved, and/or certified
- Potential projects that have been formally submitted to the lead agency and which are defined well enough to discern where they are, what they are (type of land use), and how big they are (acres, dwelling units, square footage, etc.). Although these submitted, but not approved projects are considered "speculative" under CEQA, they give an indication of potential future development around the facility site.

Table 11-1 of the PEA lists currently approved project within two mile of the project site. It is the "Creekside" business park. Eight future projects are listed in the table. They include residential, business, commercial, and services development and expansions, as well as expansion of the County Airport.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting:

The project site is bounded to the north by Capitolio Way with commercial development beyond; to the east by Sacramento Drive with commercial and light industrial development beyond; to the west by Broad Street with vacant land beyond; and to the south by vacant land and a storage

facility with residential property to the southwest. Resource-specific baseline settings are provided in Sections I – XVI of this checklist.

10. Other Agencies Whose Approval is Required:

The site is located within the jurisdiction of the City of San Luis Obispo (City) and the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD).

The proposed project is considered a distribution facility under the City's Zoning Code. The ons allow distribution facilities in any zone subject to a Use Permit. The City has approved a Use Permit for the proposed project. The approved Use Permit (City reference number A 115-99, approved July 20, 1999) finds that the proposed use conforms with the City's General Plan and meets zoning ordinance requirements. The project would not conflict with any other plans, policies, or regulations (PEA, 2000, p. 11-3).

Specific local policies relevant to each of the sixteen environmental impact issue areas are provided in Table 11-2 (PEA, 2000, follows p. 11-42). When there are no relevant and applicable policies, this fact is stated with an explanation. Sources for the policies are provided at the end of the listing.

11. Determination:

On the basis of the analysis of this Initial Study, the proposed facility would not have a significant effect on the environment because the Environmental Commitments described below would be incorporated into the design and construction of the facility.

The proposed facility is an element of the project addressed in a Petition to Modify an existing Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) (Decision No. 98-03-066). That CPCN was supported by a Mitigated Negative Declaration that included mitigation measures to be implemented in the design, construction, and operation of the previously approved telecommunications facilities within existing utility rights-of-way. The project will incorporate all of the mitigation measures outlined in the previous Decision, as well as those of this environmental review, into its design and construction of the project. Therefore, the actions previously imposed as mitigation measures in the CPCN Decision are now Environmental Commitments for the facility addressed herein. In summary, these Environmental Commitments include:

- Measures to mitigate potential impacts to various resources
- All required local, regional, state and federal approvals and permits required for construction and operation of the project
- Coordination with local and resource management agencies
- Notifications of adjacent property owners
- Coordination with other utility projects in the area
- Documentation and reporting of compliance.

A complete list of mitigation measures from the previous Negative Declaration is provided in Appendix B of the PEA (PEA, 2000, Volume 3).

I. AESTHETICS

The site is located in an urban landscape dominated in the foreground by built structures and infrastructure, and naturally appearing hillsides and ridges in the background. Existing visual quality, viewer sensitivity, and viewer exposure are rated moderate while visual absorption capability is rated high (see the Visual Analysis Data Sheet at the end of this Initial Study). The proposed project will minimally alter the existing building exterior appearance and visual features. Therefore, no project-induced visual contrast is expected. Based on a field study of the site and vicinity, analysis of PEA data and conclusions, a review of applicable local planning policy and guidance, and/or planning agency confirmation of PEA accuracy, no significant visual impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are recommended. Figure 11-I-1 shows the location of the Key Viewpoint from which the Visual Analysis Data Sheet was developed. Figure 11-I-2 shows the view from the Key Viewpoint. These figures are found at the end of this Initial Study. Also, see PEA Photos 11-A through E for additional views (PEA, 2000, following p. 11-42).

Evaluation

a)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No Impact. The project site is visible from Broad Street, a designated Scenic Roadway in the City of San Luis Obispo General Plan. Policy C1 144.3 in the City's General Plan Circulation Element states that "Development along scenic roadways should not block views or detract from the quality of views." Minor changes to the existing building are intended to improve the existing buildings design features and will minimally alter the visual character of the existing viewshed from Broad Street. The proposed project will include site landscaping which may improve the site's visual quality.

b)	Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No Impact. The site is not located on, or in close proximity to, scenic resources such as trees or rock outcroppings. See also I.a above.

c)	Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No Impact. Existing views of the site encompass an urban setting of industrial, commercial, and residential development, paved surfaces, and infrastructure. Since project construction will primarily involve interior renovation with only minimal modification of the existing building's exterior, visual absorption capability is considered high. The proposed project would not significantly change the existing visual character or quality of the site or surroundings and the proposed building improvements and site landscaping may actually improve the site's visual quality.

d)	Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

d) No Impact. Exterior lighting of the 3R D-Node facility will include lighting for parking. Given the presence of exterior lighting in the immediate vicinity of the site (associated with street lighting, commercial structure lighting, and motor vehicle headlights), project facility lighting would not adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area or create glare.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Setting

The site is located in a developed urban area. The site does not hold any special agricultural designations and is not currently used for agricultural purposes. The site currently contains a 29,295 square-foot building that was formerly used as a grocery store. Based on a field study of the site and vicinity, analysis of PEA data and conclusions, a review of applicable local planning policy and guidance, and/or planning agency confirmation of PEA accuracy, no significant agricultural impacts are anticipated as a result of project implementation.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No Impact. The site is not located on land designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local or Statewide Importance. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the conversion of such farmland to non-agricultural uses.

b)	Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No Impact. The site is not zoned for agricultural use nor is the site under a Williamson Act contract.

c)	Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No Impact. The site is a developed urban parcel and does not retain properties of significant agricultural value (see [a] and [b] above). Project construction would result in the continuation of a

developed site, and would not result in the conversion of farmland or significant agricultural potential to a non-agricultural use.

III. AIR QUALITY

Setting

The proposed project is within the South Central Coast Air Basin. The South Central Coast Air Basin is currently designated as a nonattainment area for state ozone and PM10 standards, but not for National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

SLOCAPCD provides guidelines to lead agencies in determining whether a project would be likely to exceed an air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected exceedance. For evaluating construction-phase air quality impacts, SLOCAPCD recommends use of emissions-based significance criteria of 185 pounds per day (lb/day) for ROG and NO_x, and 2.5 tons per quarter (tpq) of PM10. The PM10 threshold includes both engine exhaust and fugitive dust sources.

The District has translated these ROG and NO_x emissions-based criteria into the following construction-phase activity thresholds, which are to be used where detailed construction specifications are not known: 2,000 cubic yards per day or 50,000 cubic yards per quarter. For PM10, the District considers that any project with a grading area greater than 4 acres of continuously worked area would exceed the 2.5 tons per quarter criterion. Disturbance along the workaround will be primarily due to spider plowing. No grading activities are expected to occur along the workaround route.

The SLOCAPCD also provides quantitative thresholds of significance for operational-phase impacts. However, the Cuesta Grande Workaround would not have operations at the site beyond an occasional inspection visit by one worker (and one vehicle). The emissions and air quality impacts associated with this occasional visit of one vehicle are negligible, and hence, require no further analysis.

Evaluation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a) Less than Significant. Estimates of site construction parameters contributing to emissions from internal combustion engines and the resulting emissions estimates are provided in Table 11-III-1 (PEA, 2000, Table 11-3, follows p. 11-42). Also included are the PM10 emissions associated with generation of fugitive dust during construction. These combined exhaust and fugitive dust emissions are all below regulatory thresholds and are, therefore, in compliance with the applicable air quality plan.

Given the small scale of the construction effort and its temporary nature, project construction would not significantly affect regional ozone concentrations. In that context, while mobile construction equipment would generate emissions of ozone precursors NO_x and ROG, the applicable ozone plan anticipates that such mobile emissions sources would continue to be regulated at the state and federal level, rather than on a project-by-project basis at the local level. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

Fugitive dust would be generated during the construction phase from trenching onsite for the innerduct, travel of heavy equipment, and wind erosion. Fugitive dust would be controlled in a manner consistent with the applicable air quality plans by implementing effective dust control measures throughout the construction phase. Long-term fugitive dust emissions associated with facility operation will be negligible.

Site operations would include daily commuting by three employees. As indicated above, the project would include installation of a standby diesel generator for emergency power. Per SLOCAPCD Rule 201, the standby generator engine is exempt from permitting requirements because it would be used solely as a source of standby power and would be operated less than 100 hours per year.

The SLOAPACD Rule 601 requires that the generator satisfy Best Available Control Technology (BACT) because its daily emissions would exceed 25 lb/day. BACT would be satisfied because the engine is the latest available technology for a 1,750 kW generator and it would be used only 30 hours per year.

Level 3 has already committed to take the following actions to ensure that air quality impacts will be less than significant:

- Construct and operate the generator in accordance with SLOCAPCD's New Source Review requirements under Rule 601, including BACT to minimize CO, PM10, SOx, and NOx requirements.

In addition, Level 3 will implement a construction-phase dust abatement program, including the following activities:

- Dust emissions from all disturbed areas, including storage piles that are not being actively utilized for construction purposes, will be effectively stabilized using water, chemical stabilizer or suppressant or vegetative cover.
- Dust emissions from all on-site unpaved roads and off-site unpaved access roads will be effectively stabilized using water or chemical stabilizer or suppressant
- Fugitive dust emissions from all land-clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, land-leveling, grading, cut and fill, and demolition activities will be effectively controlled by watering during these activities or presoaking.
- When materials are transported off-site, all material will be covered, effectively wetted to limit visible dust emissions, or kept below at least six inches of freeboard space from the top of the container.
- All operations will limit or expeditiously remove the accumulation of mud or dirt from adjacent public streets at least once every 24 hours when operations are occurring. Dry rotary brushes will not be used except when preceded or accompanied by sufficient wetting to limit the visible dust emissions. Blower devices will not be used.

b)	Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

b) Less than Significant Impact. As discussed above, the project site lies in an area designated as "nonattainment" for the state ambient air quality standards for ozone and PM10.

TABLE 11-III-1 AIR QUALITY CALCULATIONS

Construction Engine Emissions

SOURCE	SIZE / GROSS HP	DAILY AMOUNT (1) (hrs or trips)	NUMBER OF DAYS	NUMBER OF UNITS	ONE-WAY DISTANCE (miles)	NO_x EF (2)	NO_x Daily (lbs/day)	NO_x Total (tons)	ROG EF (2)	ROG Daily (lbs/day)	ROG Total (tons)	PM_{10} EF (2)	PM_{10} Daily (lbs/day)	PM_{10} Total (tons)	SO_x EF (2)	SO_x Daily (lbs/day)	SO_x Total (tons)	CO EF (2)	CO Daily (lbs/day)	CO Total (tons)	NOTES
Site Grading (11 cy)																					
Backhoe Loader	200	1	1	1	-	2370	5.2	0.0026	180	0.4	0.0002	15	0.03	0.0000	135	0.30	0.0001	205	0.5	0.0002	6
Vac Truck	153	2	1	1	-	1660	7.3	0.0037	110	0.5	0.0002	15	0.07	0.0000	105	0.46	0.0002	110	0.5	0.0002	6
Surveying Lt-Heavy Duty Truck	117	3	1	1	-	780	5.2	0.0026	72	0.5	0.0002	44	0.29	0.0001	85	0.56	0.0003	105	0.7	0.0003	6
Lt-Heavy Duty Truck	10 cu yd	1	1	1	30	11.3	1.5	0.0007	2.2	0.3	0.0001	0.59	0.08	0.0000	0.31	0.04	0.0000	14.0	1.9	0.0009	7
Worker Light Truck	175	1	1	1	30	18.4	2.4	0.0012	4.4	0.6	0.0003	0.84	0.11	0.0001	0.31	0.04	0.0000	35	4.6	0.0023	6
Equipment Delivery Truck	Low boy	3	1	-	30	11.3	4.5	0.0022	2.2	0.9	0.0004	0.59	0.23	0.0001	0.31	0.12	0.0001	14.0	5.6	0.0028	7
Worker Light Truck	Light	2	1	-	30	1.0	0.3	0.0001	0.35	0.1	0.0000	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.06	0.02	0.0000	7.22	1.9	0.0010	7
Maxima and Subtotals (Site Grading)							16.0	0.0132		2.3	0.0016		0.71	0.0004		0.78	0.0008		14.6	0.0078	
Gutting of Building Interior (200 cu.yds.)																					
Semi-end Dump Trucks	20 ton	3	3	-	100	11.3	14.9	0.0223	2.2	2.9	0.0044	0.59	0.78	0.0012	0.31	0.41	0.0006	14.0	18.6	0.0279	7
Worker Light Truck	Light	12	3	-	30	1.00	1.6	0.0024	0.35	0.6	0.0008	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.06	0.10	0.0001	7.22	11.5	0.0172	7
Maxima and Subtotals (Demolition)							16.5	0.0247		3.5	0.0052		0.78	0.0012		0.51	0.0008		30.0	0.0450	
Pad Construction (28cy)																					
Cement Truck	10 yd3	3	1	-	30	11.3	4.5	0.0022	2.2	0.9	0.0004	0.59	0.23	0.0001	0.31	0.12	0.0001	14.0	5.6	0.0028	7
Gravel Truck	10 yd3	3	1	-	30	11.3	4.5	0.0022	2.2	0.9	0.0004	0.59	0.23	0.0001	0.31	0.12	0.0001	14.0	5.6	0.0028	7
Worker Light Truck	Light	2	1	-	30	1.00	0.3	0.0001	0.35	0.1	0.0000	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.06	0.02	0.0000	7.22	1.9	0.0010	7
Maxima and Subtotals (Pad Construction)							9.2	0.0046		1.8	0.0009		0.47	0.0002		0.26	0.0001		13.1	0.0065	
Trenching & Utility Installation (350cy)																					
Excavator	84	8	12	1	-	774	13.6	0.0819	64	1.1	0.0068	13	0.23	0.0014	58	1.02	0.0061	79	1.4	0.0083	6
Equipment Delivery Truck	Low boy	1	2	-	30	11.3	1.5	0.0015	2.2	0.3	0.0003	0.59	0.08	0.0001	0.31	0.04	0.0000	14.0	1.9	0.0019	7
Worker Light Truck	Light	2	12	-	30	1.00	0.3	0.0016	0.35	0.1	0.0006	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.06	0.02	0.0001	7.2	1.9	0.0115	7
Maxima and Subtotals (Trenching and Utility Installation)							15.4	0.0850		1.5	0.0076		0.31	0.0015		1.08	0.0062		5.2	0.0216	
Shelter Placement																					
Crane	150 ton	2	1	1	-	576	2.5	0.0013	82	0.4	0.0002	64	0.28	0.0001	41	0.18	0.0001	1624		0.0000	8
Equipment Delivery Truck	Low boy	1	1	-	150	11.3	7.4	0.0037	2.2	1.5	0.0007	0.59	0.39	0.0002	0.31	0.21	0.0001	14.0	9.3	0.0046	7
Worker Light Truck	Light	2	1	-	30	1.00	0.3	0.0001	0.35	0.1	0.0000	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.06	0.02	0.0000	7.2	1.9	0.0010	7
Maxima and Subtotals (Shelter Placement)							10.2	0.0051		1.9	0.0010		0.67	0.0003		0.40	0.0002		11.2	0.0056	
Access Road Construction (75cy)																					
Grader	200	4	3	1	-	2370	20.9	0.0313	180	1.6	0.0024	15	0.13	0.0002	135	1.19	0.0018	205	1.8	0.0027	6
Dozer	153	4	3	1	-	1660	14.6	0.0220	110	1.0	0.0015	15	0.13	0.0002	105	0.93	0.0014	110	1.0	0.0015	6
Gravel Truck	10 yd3	4	2	-	30	11.3	6.0	0.0060	2.2	1.2	0.0012	0.6	0.31	0.0003	0.3	0.16	0.0002	14.0	7.4	0.0074	7
Crane	-	4	2	1	-	1787	15.8	0.0158	71	0.6	0.0006	67	0.59	0.0006	235	2.07	0.0021	128	1.1	0.0011	8
Equipment Delivery Truck	Low boy	1	2	-	30	11.3	1.5	0.0015	2.2	0.3	0.0003	0.6	0.08	0.0001	0.3	0.04	0.0000	14.0	1.9	0.0019	7
Worker Light Truck	Light	2	8	-	25	1.0	0.2	0.0009	0.4	0.1	0.0003	0.0	0.00	0.0000	0.1	0.01	0.0001	7.2	1.6	0.0064	7
Maxima and Subtotals (Access Road Construction)							28.6	0.0775		3.1	0.0063		0.98	0.0014		2.29	0.0056		12.7	0.0210	
General Construction Activities																					
Compactor	<25 hp	1	1	1	-	8	0.0	0.0000	227	0.5	0.0002	1.4	0.00	0.0000	0	0.00	0.0000	6350	14.0	0.0070	8
Equipment Delivery Truck	Low boy	1	1	-	30	11.3	1.5	0.0007	2.2	0.3	0.0001	0.59	0.08	0.0000	0.31	0.04	0.0000	14.0	1.9	0.0009	7
Construction Generator	<50 hp	8	12	1	-	0.02	0.0	0.0000	0.00	0.0	0.0000	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.01	0.0	0.0000	8
Water Truck	4500 gal.	1	2	-	30	11.3	1.5	0.0015	2.2	0.3	0.0003	0.59	0.08	0.0001	0.31	0.04	0.0000	14.0	1.9	0.0019	6
Worker Light Truck	Light	1	17	-	30	1.0	0.1	0.0011	0.35	0.0	0.0004	0.00	0.00	0.0000	0.06	0.01	0.0001	7.2	1.0	0.0081	7
Maxima and Subtotals (General Construction)							3.1	0.0034		1.1	0.0011		0.16	0.0001		0.09	0.0001		18.7	0.0179	
Maxima and Subtotals, Construction Engine Emissions (3)							28.6	0.2134		3.5	0.0270		0.98	0.0052		2.29	0.0138		30	0.1360	
Total Construction Emissions (Fugitive plus exhaust)								0.2134			0.0270			0.2360			0.0138			0.1360	
Construction Thresholds							185 lb/day			185 lb ROG/day				2.5 tpq		--			--		
Insignifigant Impact (9)							Yes			Yes				Yes		Yes			Yes		

Construction Fugitive Dust Emissions

SOURCE	DAILY AMOUNT (hours)	DAYS OF ACTIVITY	AREA OF GRADING / TRENCHING	PM_{10} EMISSIONS EF	PM_{10} EMISSIONS (daily lbs)	PM_{10} EMISSIONS (total tons)	NOTES
Gutting of Building Interior	8	3	0.34 acres	39.4 lb/acre-day	13	0.0	12
Access Road Construction and Use	8	17	0.46 acres	39.4 lb/acre-day	18	0.2	13
Trenching - Cable Installation	8	12	-	0.51 lb/hr	4.1	0.0	
Wind Erosion	24	12	0.82 acres	6.6 lb/acre-day	5.4	0.0	11
Subtotal, Construction Fugitive Emissions (3)					24	0.2	15
Total PM10 Construction Emissions (Engine Exhaust and Fugitive) (3)						0.2	

(Continued)

Operation Emissions (4)

SOURCE	SIZE / GROSS HP	DAILY AMOUNT (hours)	DAYS OF ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF UNITS	ONE-WAY DISTANCE (miles)	NO_x EF (g/hr) (2)	NO_x Daily (lbs/day)	NO_x Annual (tons/year)	ROG EF (g/hr) (2)	ROG Daily (lbs/day)	ROG Annual (tons/year)	PM_{10} EF (g/hr) (2)	PM_{10} Daily (lbs/day)	PM_{10} Annual (tons/year)	SO_x EF (g/hr) (2)	SO_x Daily (lbs/day)	SO_x Annual (tons/year)	CO EF (g/hr) (2)	CO Daily (lbs/day)	CO Annual (tons/year)	NOTES
Emergency Generator	1886	0.5	60	1		28,490	31.4	0.94	653	0.7	0.02	150	0.17	0.005	346	0.38	0.011	1,252	1.38	0.04	6,14
	(1750kW)																				
Worker Light Truck	Light	-	260	3	30	1.0	0.4	0.05	0.35	0.1	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.003	7.2	2.87	0.37	7
Total Operation Emissions (5)							31.8	0.99		0.9	0.04		0.17	0.00		0.41	0.015		4.25	0.41	
Operation Thresholds							Exempt			Exempt			Exempt			Exempt			Exempt		
Insignifigant Impact (10)							Yes			Yes			Yes			Yes			Yes		

'- = Not applicable

Unit abbreviations: g/hr = grams per hour, lb/day = pounds per day, tpy = tons per year, tpq = tons per quarter

(1) Daily amount is measured in hours for off-road construction equipment (e.g., grader), and in number of trips for on-road vehicles (e.g., worker light-truck).

(2) Emission factors are in grams per hour for off-road equipment, and in grams per mile for on-road vehicles.

(3) Construction engine emission subtotals are for the complete project. Major pieces of construction off-road equipment (e.g., grader, dozer) are used consecutively, not concurrently.

(4) Operation and construction will not occur simultaneously, and hence, the emissions are not additive.

(5) Operational emission totals are for the project. Only one generator will be tested on a single day.

(6) Emission factors are from Caterpillar Corp.

(7) EMFAC7G Emission Factors (1998, 15mph, 75°F)

(8) SCAQMD CEQA Handbook, Table A9-8-B

(9) Construction emissions have insignifigant impact when no emission of a major piece of off-road equipment exceeds threshold (i.e., major pieces are used consequently, not concurrently).

(10) Operation emissions have an insignificant impact if emergency generators are exempt from regulatory limits or if no regulations apply.

(11) Number of days subject to wind erosion equal to days for trenching.

(12) Area to be graded is sum of 115-foot by 66-foot fenced compound and 10-foot wide perimeter band.

(13) Access road assumed to be 1000 ft long and 10 ft wide.

(14) The 25-minute test cycle will be conducted mostly at 50 percent load. To be conservative, the horsepower is stated and emissions are calculated at 75 percent load.

(15) Daily construction fugitive emissions includes the specific activity plus wind erosion.

Construction maximum daily emissions are below the regulatory thresholds, and hence, are less than significant. PM10 emissions from exhaust and fugitive dust associated with construction activities would also comply with the 2.5 tpq threshold, as shown in Table 11-III-1. Although PM10 emissions would be below the applicable SLOCAPCD significance threshold, fugitive dust control measures would be implemented during construction.

c)	Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal and state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

c) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed San Luis Obispo 3R D-Node site is one of two PEA sites located in San Luis Obispo County. The other site is the Cuesta Grande Workaround site.

As indicated in Tables 10-III-1 and 11-III-1, the estimated NO_x emissions that would be generated by construction of the proposed Cuesta Grande Workaround and the San Luis Obispo 3R site are 158 lbs/day and 28 lbs/day, respectively. These emissions assume 10 hours a day of spider plowing along the Cuesta Grande Workaround. The total combined cumulative emissions would exceed the daily threshold for NO_x (185 lbs/day). However, a applicant-proposed mitigation measure listed under Site No. 10 Cuesta Grande Workaround, III(c) would lower this potential cumulative impact to less than significant by reducing workaround spider plowing activities to nine hours per day if plowing were to occur simultaneously with construction of the 3R D-Node facility.

d)	Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

d) Less than Significant Impact.. Sensitive receptors are defined as facilities that house children, elderly and ill members of the population, such as schools, daycare centers, hospitals, retirement homes, hospices and residences. The nearest neighbors to the 3R facility are industrial buildings, which do not qualify as sensitive receptors. The nearest sensitive receptors are residences located approximately 140 feet to the southwest. However, the generator is setback at least 180 feet from the southwest property line, providing a total setback of 320 feet from the nearest sensitive receptor. Using the same general line of reasoning, the nearest public receptor is 150 feet away (100 foot generator setback plus 50 feet from the property line to the nearest public receptor).

The emergency generator would produce operation emissions during testing and power outages. Two factors prevent these emissions from significantly affecting sensitive receptors. First, the generator would located at least 320 feet from the nearest sensitive receptor. Second, generator usage would be restricted to one-half hour per week and not more than 30 hours per year. These measures would assure that sensitive receptors are not exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations.

e)	Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) No Impact. The project would not include activities that create objectionable odors.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Setting

The majority of the proposed site has been disturbed due to previous grading and commercial development with over a third of the site under pavement. A perennial stream with wetland and riparian components is located along the eastern and southern property limits.

Plant species observed in disturbed areas included wild oats (*Avena* sp.), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), red brome (*Bromus rubens*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), acacia, and eucalyptus. Plant species observed in wetland and riparian areas included red willow (*Salix* sp.), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), sedge (*Scirpus* sp.), rush (*Juncus* sp.), and blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). Observed wildlife species included California tree frog (*Hyla cadaverina*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), and house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*).

Evaluation

a)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No Impact. The project site consists of an existing structure, previously used as a grocery store. The majority of construction activities associated with the project are expected to be contained within the existing structure. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that there will be any adverse impact to sensitive or special status species. An inclusive search, the California Natural Diversity Database (San Luis Obispo Quadrangle) was performed for sensitive plant and wildlife species with the potential to occur in the vicinity of the project site (California Department of Fish and Game, March 2000). The occurrence potentials for all sensitive species revealed in this search are included in Table 11-IV-1. Based on the on-site evaluation and the consultation with the City of San Luis Obispo, the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*, federally threatened and a California Species of Special Concern), the southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*, a federally endangered and California state species of concern), and the southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*, a federal and California state species of concern) have the potential to occur in the perennial stream located along the eastern and southern property limits. Since all construction activities are to be contained within previously developed areas, no impact to this species is expected ensue (California Department of Fish and Game, March 2000; PEA, 2000, p. 11-13).

To minimize potential impacts, Level 3 has already committed to the following mitigation measure:

- Due to the proximity of the stream to the project site, it is recommended that biological monitors will be present during construction activities occurring outside the confines of the existing structure. The City of San Luis Obispo also enforces a "Creek Setback Ordinance" that requires a buffer of at least 20 feet between any construction activity and the edge of the drainage bank or riparian vegetation. Sufficient erosion control devices will be installed to ensure that there will be no impact to any wetland or aquatic resources. An environmental monitor will be present to ensure that the setback ordinance and erosion control devices are implemented properly.

Table 11-IV-1
Potential for Habitat at the San Luis Obispo 3R D-Node Site
to Support Sensitive Species Occurring in the Vicinity

The adobe sanicle *(Sanicula maritima)* is a federal species of concern, a California state rare species, and has a CNPS listing of 1B, and generally occurs in meadows and grassland habitats. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the adobe sanicle.*
The Chorro Creek bog thistle *(Cirsium fontinale* var. *obispoense*) is a federal and California state endangered species with a CNPS listing of 1B and is a perennial herb endemic to San Luis Obispo County. It blooms during the months of February through July. The bog thistle is generally found within serpentine seeps located within chaparral and cismontane woodland communities. *The site contains no appropriate habitat for the Chorro Creek bog thistle.*
Congdon's tarplant (*Hemizonia parryi* ssp. *Congdonii*) is a federal species of concern with a CNPS listing of 1B and typically is found within valley and foothill grassland plant associations. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the Congdon's tarplant.*
Jone's layia *(Layia jonesii)* is a federal species of concern with a CNPS listing of 1B. This species is generally found in chaparral, valley grassland, and foothill grassland vegetative communities. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the Jone's layia.*
The Cambria morning glory (*Calystegia subacaulis* ssp. *episcopalis*) is a federal species of concern with a CNPS listing of 1B that is entirely endemic to San Luis Obispo County. This species typically occurs within chaparral and cismontane woodland plant communities. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the Cambria morning glory.*
The San Luis Obispo serpentine dudleya (*Dudleya abramsii* ssp. *bettinae*) is a federal species of concern with a CNPS listing of 1B that prefers a wide range of habitats including coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and chaparral plant communities. This species is endemic to San Luis Obispo County only. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the San Luis Obispo serpentine dudleya.*
The Arroyo De La Cruz manzanita *(Arctostaphylus cruzensis)* is a federal species of concern with a CNPS listing of 1B that generally occurs in a very wide array of habitats including broad-leafed upland forest, coastal bluff scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub, and grassland communities. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the Arroyo De La Cruz manzanita.*
The Santa Lucia manzanita (*Arctostaphylus luciana*) is a federal species of concern with a CNPS listing of 1B found within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub communities. This species prefers soils considered being of sandy loam type. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the Santa Lucia manzanita.*
The Morro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*) is a federal threatened species with a CNPS listing of 1B. It is a perennial shrub that blooms during the months of January through March. It generally occurs within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub communities. However, this species is narrowly endemic to the Morro Bay area, on Baywood sands usually with chaparral associates ranging from 5 to 205 meters in elevation. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the Morro manzanita.*
The Cuesta Pass checkerbloom *(Sidalcea hickmanii* ssp. *anomala*) is a federal species of concern and a California state rare species with a CNPS listing of 1B. It is usually found within closed-cone coniferous forests in rocky serpentine soils. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the Cuesta Pass checkerbloom.*
The San Benito fritillary (*Fritillaria viridea*) is a federal species of concern with a CNPS listing of 4 usually found within chaparral plant associations. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the San Benito fritillary.*
Rayless ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*) has a CNPS listing of 2 and is usually found within cismontane woodland or coastal scrub associations. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the Rayless ragwort.*
Blochman's dudleya (*Dudleya blochmaniae* ssp. *Blochmaniae*) is a federal species of concern and has a CNPS listing of 1B. It is usually found with coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, ultramafic, valley and foothill grassland communities. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for Blochman's dudleya.*
San Luis mariposa lily (*Calochortus obispoensis*) has a CNPS listing of 1B. It is associated with chaparral, coastal scrub, ultramafic, valley and foothill grassland communities. This species is often found in serpentine grassland. *This site provides no appropriate native habitat for the San Luis mariposa lily.*
San Luis Obispo sedge (*Carex obispoensis*) has a CNPS listing of 1B. It is associated with ultramafic, valley and foothill grassland communities as well as closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral and coastal prairie, and coastal scrub. *This site provides no appropriate native habitat for the San Luis Obispo sedge.*

Table 11-IV-1
Potential for Habitat at the San Luis Obispo 3R D-Node Site
to Support Sensitive Species Occurring in the Vicinity

Dwarf soaproot (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. minus*) has a CNPS listing of 1B. It is associated with valley, foothill grassland, ultramafic, and chaparral communities. *This site provides no appropriate native habitat for the Dwarf soaproot.*
Brewer's spineflower *(*Chorizanthe breweri*)* has a CNPS listing of 1B. It is associated with as closed-cone coniferous forest valley, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub and ultramafic communities. *This site provides no appropriate native habitat for the Brewer's spineflower.*
Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) has no listing but its winter roost sites are considered sensitive habitat by the CDFG. These roost sites include groves of eucalyptus, Monterey pine, and cypress trees. *The site does not include stands of trees necessary for monarch butterfly roosting habitat*.
The Atascadero June beetle *(Polyphylla nubila)* is a federal species of concern known only from sandy habitats located in Atascadero and San Luis Obispo. This species is restricted to San Luis Obispo County. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the Atascadero June beetle.*
Silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*), a federal species of concern and a California state species of concern, must have habitat where the soil is moist. They prefer habitat with soils with a high moisture content. *The site is highly disturbed and has no appropriate habitat for the Silvery legless lizard.*
The California horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum frontale*) is a federal and California state species of concern. This species is associated with a wide variety of habitats. It is most common near sandy washes with scattered scrub vegetation. They require open areas for sunning, bushes for cover patches of loose soil for burial, and an abundant supply of ants and other insects. *The upland areas within the site are highly disturbed and have no appropriate habitat for the California horned lizard.*
The southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*), a federal and California state species of concern, is found along streams with deep pools, basking sites and safe underwater retreats. *The perennial drainage, a tributary to Acacia Creek, located along the east and southern boundaries of the site provides suitable, but limited aquatic habitat for the southwestern pond turtle.*
The California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) is a federal threatened species and California state species of concern found mostly in lowlands and foothills in and around permanent sources of deep water and prefers shorelines with extensive vegetation. This species will also disperse far during and after rain. The California red-legged frog requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. *The perennial drainage, a tributary to Acacia Creek, located along the east and southern boundaries of the site provides suitable aquatic and riparian habitat for the California red-legged frog.*
The southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), a federally endangered and California state species of concern, is associated with perennial streams of coastal southern California. Southern steelhead depends more on fresh water streams than most salmonid species. They generally rely on the headwater areas of rivers and streams for nursery areas. Unlike other salmonids species, Southern steelhead usually do not die after spawning. *The perennial drainage, a tributary to Acacia Creek, located along the east and southern boundaries of the site provides suitable aquatic habitat for the southern steelhead.*
The tri-colored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) is a federal and California state species of concern. This species is highly colonial, most numerous in the central valley and its vicinity. They require open water protected nesting substrate and foraging area with insect prey within a few kilometers of the colony. *The perennial drainage, a tributary to Acacia Creek, located along the east and southern boundaries of the site provides suitable, but limited habitat for the tricolored blackbird.*
The western yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), a California state endangered species, is a rare summer transient of southern California. This species nests in deciduous riparian forest and cottonwood-willow woodland communities. *Appropriate riparian habitat for the western yellow-billed cuckoo is not found anywhere in this site.*

Source: California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). *San Luis Obispo Quadrangle, California Natural Diversity Database,* March 2000.

b)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No Impact. The high degree of disturbance associated with the site has limited the plant community to predominately invasive, ruderal species. However, one perennial stream, a tributary to Acacia Creek, with associated wetland and riparian vegetation was observed within the proposed project area. All impacts to the riparian plant community are avoidable by establishing a buffer between construction activity and the stream. A buffer of 20 feet is required by the City of San Luis Obispo. Sufficient erosion control devices will be installed to ensure that there will be no impact to any riparian or aquatic resources. An environmental monitor will be present to ensure that the setback ordinance and erosion control devices are implemented properly ensue (California Department of Fish and Game, March 2000; PEA, 2000, p. 11-13).

c)	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No Impact. One perennial drainage (the Acacia Creek tributary) with positive wetland characteristics exists within the proposed project area (PEA, 2000, Figure 11-10, follows p. 11-42). This creek will be directionally bored. All impacts to this drainage are avoidable by establishing a buffer between construction activity and the stream. The City of San Luis Obispo enforces a "Creek Setback Ordinance" that requires a buffer of at least 20 feet between any construction activity and the edge of the drainage bank or riparian vegetation. One end of the bore will be situated immediately adjacent to the existing building (old grocery store), located approximately 80 feet from the edge of riparian vegetation. The bore will be routed under the creek and surface along the road shoulder of Sacramento Drive.

Sufficient erosion control devices will be installed to ensure that there will be no impact, by discharge or fill, to any wetland resources. An environmental monitor will be present to ensure that the setback ordinance and erosion control devices are implemented properly (CDFG, March 2000; PEA, 2000, p. 11-14).

d)	Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

d) No Impact. Adjacent commercial development and roads create an isolating boundary around this site. It is therefore unlikely that the site functions as an important link in any terrestrial wildlife corridor. Given the high degree of disturbance throughout the majority of the site, it is also unlikely that the property would provide nursery habitat for any native terrestrial species. The existing drainage may provide suitable habitat for the southern steelhead trout, a native fish species that utilizes freshwater stream habitats for seasonal migration. All impacts to the aquatic habitat are avoidable by establishing a construction buffer and installing sufficient erosion control devices between construction

activity and the stream. An environmental monitor will be present to ensure that the setback ordinance and erosion control devices are implemented properly (CDFG, March 2000; PEA, 2000, P. 11-14).

e)	Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) No Impact. The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The city of San Luis Obispo requires a permit for the removal of any tree, native or nonnative, greater than 4 feet in height. However, the proposed project will not require the removal of any tree species (CDFG, March 2000; PEA, 2000, p. 11-14).

f)	Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

The project will not conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan (CDFG, March 2000; PEA, 2000, p. 11-14).

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Setting

The 3R-facility site is in the southern part of the City of San Luis Obispo at 3550 Broad Street on the southwest corner of Capitolio Way and Sacramento Drive. There is an abandoned grocery store on the parcel, which will house the proposed facility. Part of the parcel around the building is paved and the rest is open ground. The project area is located in the region occupied by the Chumash when the first Spanish land expedition passed through the area in A.D. 1769.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) and b) No Impact. An archival record search was completed of the site and area within a one-mile radius of the site by the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), Central Coastal Center, UC Santa Barbara. The search also included a check of the California Office of Historic Preservation Historic Property Data File for San Luis Obispo County, the National Register of Historic Places (listings and eligibility determinations), California Points of Historical Interest, California

Register of Historical Resources, and California Historical Landmarks. The records search reported that the property had not been previously surveyed (File No. Not Provided). The record search also indicated that there are two previously recorded archaeological sites (2 prehistoric) within a one-mile radius of the project. No other properties within a half-mile are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, California State Historic Resources Inventory, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest.

The State of California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) completed a search of the NAHC Sacred Lands file with negative results and identified locally knowledgeable Native Americans for follow-up contact/consultation. These individuals were contacted by Level 3 and no response has been received as of March 14, 2000.

An archaeological field survey of the project parcel and immediately adjacent property noted the presence of an unrecorded prehistoric site in the northwest corner of the adjacent parcel. Site testing was initiated by Level 3 on their property which contains only the former grocery store within proposed cable alignments and in proposed landscaping areas. No cultural materials were noted in any of the shovel probes.

The structure on the project parcel is not eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources as it is not associated with significant historic events or important persons, does not have distinctive architectural characteristics, nor does it have the potential to yield information important in history. In addition, the structure is less than 50 years old. No resources eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources are present on the parcel.

c)	Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
		☐	☐	☒	☐

c) Less than Significant Impact. Jurassic and Cretaceous rocks of the Franciscan Formation underlie the project site. Archives at the University of California Museum of Paleontology indicate a presumed marine vertebrate was recovered from the Franciscan Formation elsewhere in San Luis Obispo County. This fossil occurrence indicates there is a potential for Mesozoic and Cenozoic fossils to be encountered on the facility site during construction related earth-moving activities (PEA, 2000, p. 11-17).

To minimize potential impacts, Level 3 has already committed to the following mitigation measure:

- Paleontological monitoring will be conducted during earth moving activities on the project site by a qualified vertebrate paleontologist to allow for recovery of larger fossil remains and a small rock sample will be submitted for microfossil analysis during earth moving activities on the facility site. All recovered fossil remains will be fully treated (prepared, identified by knowledgeable paleontologists, curated, catalogued) and, along with associated specimen data and corresponding geologic and geographic site data, placed in a recognized museum repository. The paleontologist will prepare a final report of findings that includes an inventory of recovered fossil remains. These measures would be in compliance with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Guidelines for the management of paleontologic resources and for the museum's acceptance of a monitoring program for fossil collection.

d)	Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

d) No Impact. The CHRIS records search and field survey provided no evidence of the presence of human remains (File No. Not Provided). If suspected human remains are encountered during construction, operations will stop until the proper official is notified, the find evaluated, any mitigation recommendations implemented, and Level 3 has been cleared to resume construction in the area of the find [*Level 3 Long-Haul Fiber Optics Project Cultural Resources Procedures* (PBNS, 1999:25-39)].

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Setting

San Luis Obispo is in the San Luis Valley between the Santa Lucia and San Luis Ranges. The San Luis Valley area is underlain by Quaternary alluvial, colluvial, and terrace deposits. This area is moderately active seismically. Active faults that are located in the vicinity of the project site that could cause moderate to severe groundshaking include: the Rinconada; Los Osos; and San Andreas; and Hosgri faults. The project site is not within or adjacent to any Alquist-Priolo zones. The project area has a low potential for liquefaction, landslide, and subsidence hazards (CDMG, 1973; PEA, 2000, p. 11-18). The area is mapped as having a moderate potential for erosion (CDMG, 1973). Soil in the project area mapped as the part of the Salinas-Marimel Series (USDA, 1984) which is predominantly moderately expansive.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: i) Rupture of known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. ii) Strong seismic-related groundshaking? iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? iv) Landslides?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

a) Less than Significant Impact. The project site is not within or adjacent to an Alquist-Priolo zone; however, there are several major active faults in the vicinity (Blake, 1998; CDMG, 1994). The project area is susceptible to severe to moderate magnitude groundshaking from these faults (Blake, 1998; CDMG, 1996). The major active faults in the vicinity of the project site and their approximate distance from the project site are as follows:

- Los Osos, 2 miles
- Rinconada, 8 miles
- Hosgri, 15 miles
- San Andreas, 37 miles (Blake, 1998; PEA, 2000).

Accordingly, building design will meet Uniform Building Code-Zone 4 Seismic Standards, and any and all local building and seismic codes to minimize potential seismic hazards. The project site is in an area with low liquefaction potential.

b)	Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No Impact. Although the project area is mapped as having moderate potential for erosion, the project site is relatively flat and the existing building would be retrofitted to house the 3R D-Node facility, thus causing minimal soil disturbance.

c)	Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No Impact. The project site is relatively flat and is not in an area with unstable soil or geologic units.

d)	Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

d) No Impact. The soil in the project area is mapped as having predominantly moderately expansive soil (USDA, 1984; PEA, 2000). Compliance with state and local building codes will minimize any potential impacts.

e)	Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) No Impact. Municipal sewer service would be used for disposal of wastewater.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Setting

Review of a database of regulatory agency recognized hazardous waste sites revealed no potentially contaminated sites at or adjacent to the project site (Vista, 19990). No schools are located within one-quarter mile of the site. The site is located approximately 1.3 miles from San Luis Obispo County Airport – Mc Chesney Field. However, the project is not within an Airport Land Use Plan. Fuel for the backup generator would be stored in an aboveground tank.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No Impact. The Proponent will handle and store hazardous materials onsite in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

b)	Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No Impact. Leak monitoring and spill containment features planned for the onsite aboveground fuel storage tank minimize the risk of hazardous substance release through foreseeable upset or accident conditions.

c)	Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No Impact. The project area is in a rural area and no schools or proposed schools are within one-quarter mile of the project site.

d)	Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

d) No Impact. The project site is not included on a list of regulatory agency recognized hazardous materials sites (Vista, 1999).

e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) No Impact. The site is located approximately 1.3 miles from San Luis Obispo County Airport – Mc Chesney Field; however, it is not within an Airport Land Use Plan. The runway alignments are away from the project site and should result in a safety hazard for people working at the facility.

f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

f) No Impact. There are no private airstrips within the vicinity of the project site.

g)	Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

g) No Impact. Redevelopment of this site for use as a 3R D-Node facility would not alter, impair, or interfere with adopted emergency response and evacuation plans.

h)	Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

h) No Impact. The site is in an urban commercial/light industrial area, and would not be subject to wildland fires. Level 3 has already committed to equip generators with spark arrestors to minimize potential impacts.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Setting

The facility is to be constructed within an existing building. The site is not located within a 100-year floodplain (PEA, 2000, Figure 11-9, follows p. 11-42).

Level 3 has already committed to the following mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts:

- The following actions will be taken to ensure that hydrology/water quality impacts are minimized during construction and operation of this site. The actions will be applied as appropriate. Details regarding these actions have been provided (PEA, 2000, Appendix E, Volume 3).
  - Bore under sensitive habitats when practicable
  - Implement erosion control measures during construction
  - Remove cover vegetation as close to the time of construction as practicable
  - Confine construction equipment and associated activities to the construction corridor
  - No refueling of construction equipment will take place within 100 feet of an aquatic environment
  - Comply with state, federal, and local permits
  - Perform proper sediment control
  - Prepare and implement a spill prevention and response plan
  - Remove all installation debris, construction spoils, and miscellaneous litter for proper offsite disposal
  - Complete post-construction vegetation monitoring and supplemental revegetation where needed.

- A Notification of Intent (NOI) will be submitted to the applicable RWQCB and the State Water Resources Control Board for construction of the site under the General Storm Water Permit to Discharge Storm Water Associated With Construction Activity. The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will include the following: 1) Project Description; 2) Best Management Practices for Storm Water Pollution Prevention; 3) Inspection, Maintenance, and Record Keeping; and 4) Training.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No Impact. Proposed construction, operation, and waste disposal activities are to be performed in accordance with all applicable regulations.

b)	Would the project substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No Impact. The project will not involve groundwater extraction. Net impermeable area will not be increased on the site, so groundwater recharge will not be impacted.

c)	Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No Impact. The project involves construction within an existing building. No site grading is anticipated nor will there be any net change in impervious surfaces. Thus, no changes in erosion or siltation characteristics on or off site are expected.

d)	Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or off site?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

d) No Impact. The project involves construction within an existing building. No site grading is anticipated nor will there be any net change in impervious surfaces. Thus, no changes in storm water drainage characteristics are expected.

e)	Would the project create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) No Impact. The project involves construction within an existing building, so no net change in the amount and characteristics of runoff are expected.

f)	Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

f) Less than Significant Impact. Proposed construction practices are expected to minimize impacts to water quality to the less than significant level.

g)	Would the project place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

g) No Impact. The project does not include housing.

h)	Would the project place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

h) No Impact. The project is not located within a 100-year floodplain (PEA, 2000, Figure 11-9, follows p. 11-42).

i)	Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

i) No Impact. The site is not subject to flooding. Dam failure is not a hazard to the City of San Luis Obispo (PEA, 2000, p. 24), and the site is not protected from flooding by levees (PEA, 2000, Figure 11-9, follows p. 11-42).

j)	Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death due to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

j) Less than Significant Impact. Seiche and tsunami are not considered as potential hazards at the project site (PEA, 2000, p. 11-24). Given the location within a developed industrial area outside the 100-year floodplain, the likelihood of inundation due to mudflow is assumed to be small. Any risk to people or structures is considered less than significant.

IX. LAND USE PLANNING

Setting

The proposed site is located at 3550 Broad Street in the City of San Luis Obispo. The general project vicinity is urban with a mix of industrial, commercial, and residential development. The 4.31-acre site is presently occupied by a 29,295 square-foot building that has been renovated for occupancy by the 3R D-Node. The site is bordered by Broad Street on the southwest, Capitolio Way on the northwest,

Sacramento Drive on the northeast, and vacant land, industrial storage, and two residences to the south. Numerous commercial and light industrial properties are located on Sacramento Drive and Capitolio Way. See Figures 11-1 and 11-2 of this Initial Study and PEA Figures 11-1 through 8 for detailed locator and site vicinity maps.

The General Plan land use designation for the project site is "Services and Manufacturing" while the Zoning designation is "Commercial-Service." While the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance do not specifically address fiber optic facilities, a Use Permit has been approved for the project. The project is not anticipated to conflict with any adjacent uses and is considered consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Based on a field study of the site and vicinity, analysis of PEA data and conclusions, a review of applicable local planning policy and guidance, and/or planning agency confirmation of PEA accuracy, no significant land use impacts are anticipated. See Figure 11-1 and 11-2 in this Initial Study and PEA Figures 11-5, 7, and 8 for locations of adjacent uses.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project physically divide an established community?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No Impact. The project site is already developed. The proposed project would reuse the existing building and it's location would not divide elements of the local community.

b)	Would the project conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No Impact. The General Plan land use designation for the project site is "Services and Manufacturing" while the Zoning designation is "Commercial-Service." The project includes site landscaping and minor changes to the existing building to improve the building's exterior appearance--project aspects that would be consistent with established policies for the Broad Street Special Design Area discussed in the General Plan Land Use Element. The proposed project has been granted a Use Permit and is not expected to conflict with any applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations.

c)	Would the project conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No Impact. The 3R D-Node is an existing developed site. The proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES

Setting

The project site is not located within an area designated by the state or San Luis Obispo County for mineral resources (PEA, 2000, p. 11-26).

Evaluation

a)	Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No Impact. There are no known mineral resources within the project area.

b)	Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan other land use plan?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No Impact. There are no known mineral resources within the project area.

XI. NOISE

Setting

The project site is located in a developed industrial/commercial area in the City of San Luis Obispo. The closest public receptor to the site is located approximately 50 feet away from the site boundary. The site is approximately 1.3 miles north of the San Luis Obispo County Airport. The site also falls within Area 6 as defined in the San Luis Obispo Airport Land Use Plan. There are no private airports near the site.

The City of San Luis Obispo does not have numerical thresholds that apply to construction noise. However, the City of San Luis Obispo has a construction noise ordinance that limits construction work to daytime hours. The maximum levels for long-term operations are 65 dBA as defined by the City's noise ordinance. A use permit for the proposed project has already been approved by the city.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

a) Less than Significant Impact. The project would not generate noise in excess of local standards

during construction because no numerical thresholds apply. However, the City of San Luis Obispo has a construction noise ordinance that limits construction work to daytime hours. Level 3 would comply with this ordinance by restricting construction activities to between the periods of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays. Because the facility would use prefabricated structures, the construction period would be approximately two months. The location of most of construction activities (placement of the emergency generator) would be on the opposite side of the existing building, at least 150 feet from the nearest receptor.

With regard to operations, the emergency generator would be the main source of operational noise at the facility. The generator would be automatically tested once a week for a period of approximately 30 minutes. The maximum noise level at the closest receptor would be less than regulatory long-term limits because project design parameters include a specially-insulated generator enclosure that limits noise levels to 85 dBA at 5 feet and the shelter would be set back at least 100 and 180 feet from the south and southwest property lines, respectively. Therefore, potential impacts associated with project operations are less than significant.

To minimize potential noise-related impacts, Level 3 has already committed to the following mitigation measures:

- Level 3 will set the generator back at least 100 feet from the southern property line and 180 feet from the southwest property line
- Level 3 will enclose the emergency generator within a rigid sealed enclosure rated at 85 dBA at a distance of 5 feet or less
- Level 3 will restrict construction to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

b)	Would the proposal result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

b) Less than Significant Impact. Neither project construction nor operations would generate excessive groundborne noise or vibration. The low level groundborne vibration and noise generated during construction would be short term in nature, and generally would not extend more than a few feet from the active construction area. Since the nearest public receptor would be at least 100 feet from the construction area, potential impacts associated with groundborne vibrations or noise during construction are less than significant.

With regard to operations, the emergency generator would be the only potential source of groundborne vibration. However, the generator would be mounted on a concrete pad with rubber vibration isolators that reduce groundborne vibration by more than 95 percent. The buried innerduct would not generate perceptible vibration or noise. Hence, there are no potential impacts associated with excessive groundborne vibrations during project operations.

c)	Would the proposal result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No Impact. There would be no permanent noise sources at the facility. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

d)	Would the proposal result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

d) Less than Significant Impact. Temporary increases in ambient noise levels would occur during the approximately two months of construction. However, construction noise would comply with the local noise ordinance. Operation of the emergency generator during weekly 30 minute testing periods and during power outages would result in periodic increases in ambient noise levels. However, this intermittent noise would not be a substantial increase in ambient noise levels because the insulated enclosure would be located a significant distance from the site boundary to the nearest industrial facility, creating a buffer area around the generator. Therefore, potential impacts associated with temporary and periodic increases in ambient noise levels are less than significant.

e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

e) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed site is approximately 1.3 miles north of the San Luis Obispo County Airport. The site also falls within Area 6 as defined in the San Luis Obispo Airport Land Use Plan. New projects within Area 6 are required to secure an aviation easement.

Level 3 has secured an Administrative Use Permit with the City of San Luis Obispo Planning Department to support site development plans. As part of securing this permit, the 3R facility is undergoing a planning department architectural review, which would fulfill the requirement to secure the aviation easement. Compliance with the San Luis Obispo Airport Land Use Plan would reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

f) No Impact. The site is not located within two miles of a private airstrip.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Setting

The project site is located in the City of San Luis Obispo, with a population of 42,863 as of January 1, 1999 (PEA, 2000, p. 11-29). The project site is developed with one commercial building and is located in a developed industrial and commercial area. The nearest housing is located approximately 140 feet southwest of the project site, along Broad Street. There are no local policies for population and housing, which apply to the project site.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No impact. The project would consist of the re-use of an existing commercial building and would be permanently staffed by three persons. The project does not involve the development of new housing or the extension or expansion of major infrastructure. Consequently, no growth-inducing impacts would occur.

b)	Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No impact. The project involves the re-use of an existing commercial building in an industrial/commercial area. No residential dwellings would be removed. Consequently, the project would not create the need for replacement housing elsewhere.

c)	Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No impact. The project consists of the reuse of an existing commercial building and would not displace any people. No housing would be removed. Consequently, no individuals would be displaced and no replacement housing would be necessary.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

Setting

The project is located within the City of San Luis Obispo. Fire and police protection are provided by the City of San Luis Obispo. Two fire stations are located within one mile of the project site, one is located approximately one mile north at intersection of South Street and Broad Street, and the second is located approximately 0.5 mile northeast of the site, near the intersection of Southwood Drive and Laurel Lane. The nearest police station is the City of San Luis Obispo Police Station at the corner of Walnut and Santa Rosa Streets, approximately two miles north of the project site.

Several parks are located in the vicinity of the project site; refer to Figure 11-1 for park locations. Johnson Park and Sinsheimer Park are approximately one mile north of the site, west of Augusta Street. Meadow Park is located approximately 1 mile northwest of the site at South Street and Meadow Street. Two Elementary Schools are located in the project vicinity; one is approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the site, near the intersection of Branch Street and Story Street. A second Elementary School is located approximately one mile north of the site, west of Augusta Street. San Luis Obispo General Hospital is

located approximately 1.5 miles north of the site at Johnson Avenue and Bishop Street. French Hospital Medical Center is located approximately 2 miles north of the site.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any or the public services: Fire protection? Police protection? Schools? Parks? Other public facilities?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

a) No Impact. The proposed site would be permanently staffed with three employees. Construction and operation of the 3R D-Node facility would have no impact on local schools, parks or other public facilities. The site would not have a significant impact on police services. The facility would contain a 3,4000-gallon, double-walled, aboveground belly storage tank for diesel fuel. Tank system design incorporates a high fuel alarm (local) and a tank rupture alarm (remote). Fire protection equipment would be installed per local codes. Although parks are in the vicinity, the San Luis Obispo 3R D-Node would not have a physical effect on the parks or increase the need for parks in the area.

XIV. RECREATION

Setting

Several parks and/or recreation areas are located in the vicinity of the proposed project site including: Johnson Park and Sinsheimer Park (both approximately one mile north), Meadow Park (approximately one mile northwest), and the South Street Hills designated open space (located west of Broad Street). Although the proposed project will include three permanent employees, the project will not result in significant additional use of existing recreation facilities or require construction of additional recreation facilities. Based on a field study of the site and vicinity, analysis of PEA data and conclusions, a review of applicable local planning policy and guidance, and/or planning agency confirmation of PEA accuracy, no significant recreation impacts are anticipated with project implementation.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

a) No Impact. The addition of three permanent employees will not significantly increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreation facilities.

b)	Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No Impact. The project would not include recreation facilities nor require the construction of new recreation facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Setting

The proposed site would be bordered on the north by Capitolio Way, on the east by Sacramento Drive, on the west by an adjacent vacant (paved) parcel, and on the south by a creek. The parcel was once part of a larger parcel, contiguous with the parcel to the west, with frontage on Broad Street, but has been separated by a lot-line adjustment.

Regional access to the site would be provided via Broad Street from the north and south, and east on Capitolio Way to the project site.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

a) Less than Significant Impact. During construction of the proposed project, approximately 7 workers would be commuting to the site for approximately three months. Occasionally, trucks would deliver equipment and materials to the site as well as haul construction debris from the site to recycling centers or landfills. During the operational phase of the project, three permanent employees would commute to and from the site each day. This would not add a significant number of trips to area and would be a negligible increase in traffic. Therefore, potential impacts are less than significant.

b)	Would the project exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

b) No Impact. The limited project traffic would not result in a measurable increase in congestion.

c)	Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

c) No Impact. The project would not affect air traffic patterns.

d)	Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

d) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed site would be accessed via a new driveway on the south side of Capitolio Way (see Figure 11-2). The access driveway would be located mid-block and would not have any hazardous design features.

e)	Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

e) No Impact. The proposed facility would be constructed on in an existing building. The project would not affect emergency access routes during construction or operation. Thus, there would be no impacts.

f)	Would the project result in inadequate parking capacity?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

f) No Impact. The proposed site would provide 21 off-street parking spaces, one motorcycle parking space, and three bicycle parking spaces. The provided parking spaces would be adequate for the proposed site.

g)	Would the project conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

g) No Impact. The proposed project would provide three lockable bicycle parking spaces in compliance with the City of San Luis Obispo policies supporting alternative transportation.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Setting

The project site would be developed within a commercial building that was formerly used as a grocery store. All utilities and service systems are available on-site. A utility corridor with overhead power lines runs along the southern boundary of the site. Power lines run along both sides of Broad Street. Two working pay telephones are currently located on the west face of the building. The San Luis Obispo General Plan contains policies for water and wastewater in its Water and Wastewater Element. The policies of the element do not apply because the proposed project is the redevelopment of an existing commercial site.

Evaluation

a)	Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

a) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed facility would produce minimal wastewater. Wastewater services for on-site restroom facilities serving three permanent employees would be required; however, the project would not exceed the wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.

b)	Would the project require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

b) Less than Significant Impact. The project would involve the re-use of an existing commercial structure in a developed commercial and industrial area. The project would require water and wastewater services for on-site restroom facilities. The project would require a minimal amount of water and generate a minimal amount of wastewater and would not require the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities.

c)	Would the project require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

c) Less than Significant Impact. The project would not increase the burden on existing stormwater drainage facilities.

d)	Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

d) No Impact. The three permanent employees would use a minimal amount of water. Current water supplies would be sufficient to serve the site.

e)	Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

e) Less than Significant Impact. Three permanent employees would produce a minimal amount of wastewater. The wastewater treatment provider could adequately serve the proposed site.

f)	Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☒	No Impact ☐

f) Less than Significant Impact. The proposed site would involve interior modifications and construction of an equipment yard. There would be a small amount of solid waste generated during construction and a minimal amount during operation. The solid wastes disposal needs of the project could be served by Coal Canyon Landfill, which is permitted by the State of California.

g)	Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation ☐	Less than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

g) No Impact. The proposed project would not generate a significant amount of solid waste. Landfills where waste will be deposited would be in compliance with applicable solid waste laws. The proposed project would comply with applicable solid waste laws.

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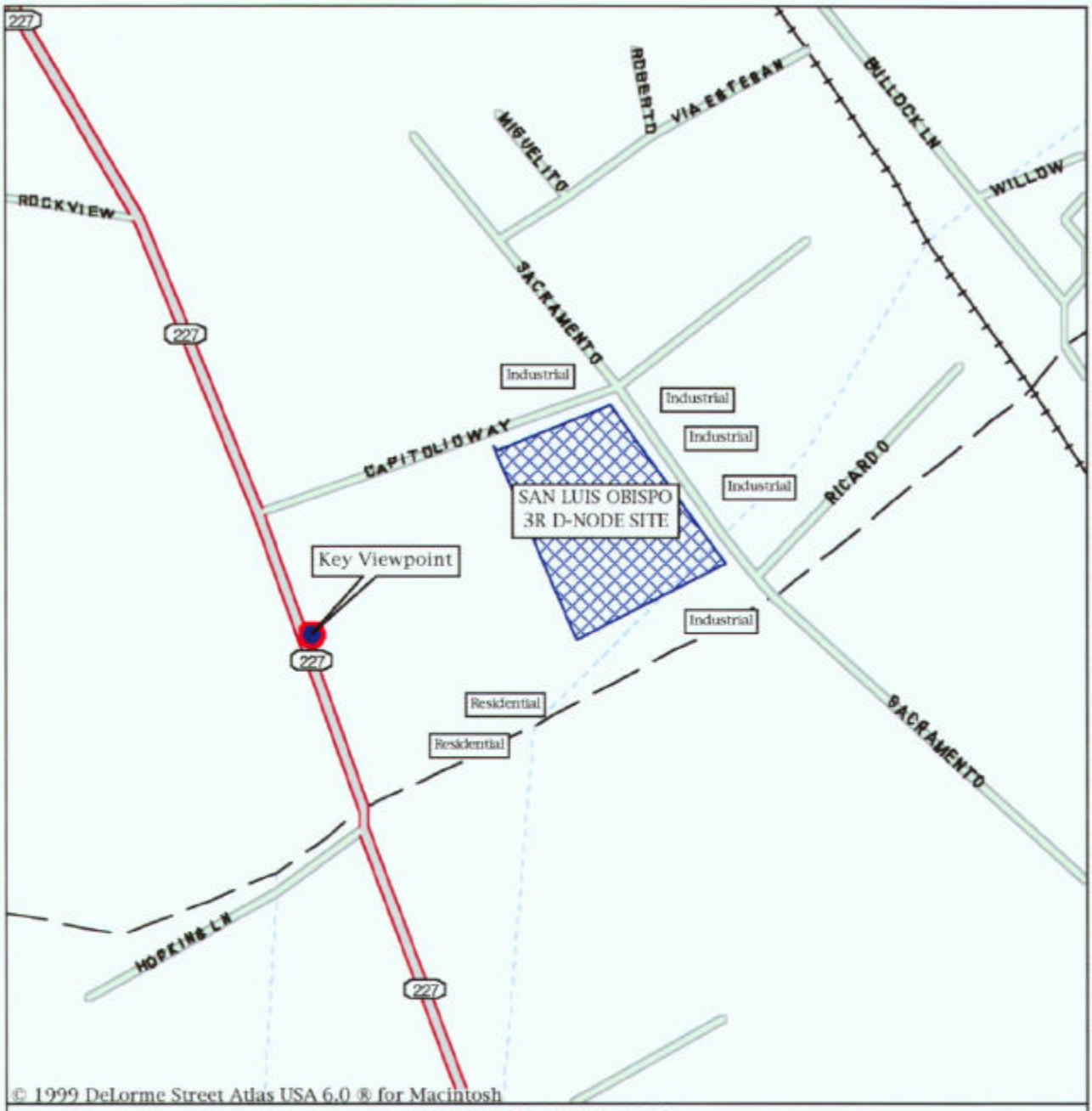

FIGURE 11-I-1

Mag 17.00
Fri Feb 25 16:29 2000
Scale 1:3,906 (at center)
200 Feet
100 Meters

Local Road
State Route
Utility/Pipe
Railroad
Intermittent River

Level 3 Communications Infrastructure Project	**Figure 11-I-2** **San Luis Obispo 3R D-Node**	View to the northwest from Broad Street in the City of San Luis Obispo. The 3R D-Node is nearing completion with the renovation of the existing building shown in the above photo.

VISUAL ANALYSIS DATA SHEET

KEY VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTION

LEVEL 3 SITE NO.
11
PROJECT COMPONENT
San Luis Obispo 3R D-Node
VIEWPOINT LOCATION
Broad Street immediately adjacent the 3R D-Node, viewing to the northeast toward the existing building under renovation to accommodate the 3R D-Node.
ANALYST
Michael Clayton
DATE
2/7/00

VISUAL QUALITY

☐ **Low**
☒ **Moderate**
☐ **High**

Views of the site encompass a foreground urban setting of commercial/industrial development, paved surfaces, and infrastructure. Background visual features include the naturally appearing forms and lines of the adjacent hills and ridges. Overall visual quality of this complex landscape is considered **moderate.**

VISUAL ABSORPTION CAPABILITY

The site is already developed with a structure within which the proposed 3R D-Node is being located. Therefore, visual absorption capability is considered **high**.

VIEWER SENSITIVITY

The proposed project will not change the existing foreground commercial/industrial character of the project site or existing viewer expectations. Therefore, overall viewer sensitivity is rated **moderate**.

VIEWER EXPOSURE

Visibility: High

Distance Zones: [FG: 0-0.5mi.; MG: 0.5-4mi.; BG: 4mi.-horizon]
Foreground

Numbers of Viewers: Moderate to High

Duration of View: Brief to Moderate

Overall Viewer Exposure:
Moderate - resulting from high visibility, moderate to high traffic volumes on Broad Street, and brief duration of views due to the rate of traffic speeds on Broad Street.

VISUAL IMPACT SUSCEPTIBILITY

☒ **Low**
☐ **Moderate**
☐ **High**

Although visual quality, viewer sensitivity, and viwer exposure are rated moderate, visual absorption capability is high. Minor changes to the existing building exterior will not result in an increase in visual contrast and the changes will not be particularly noticeable to passing motorists on Broad Street. Therefore, visual impact susceptibility is rated **low**.

(over)

Level 3 Site No. 11 Viewpoint
(continued)

VISUAL CONTRAST RATING

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION			
	LAND/WATER BODY	**VEGETATION**	**STRUCTURES**
FORM	Level	Indistinct (developed site)	Prominent, geometric
LINE	Horizontal	Indistinct (developed site)	Vertical, horizontal to diagonal
COLOR	Indistinct (developed site)	Indistinct (developed site)	Tan, grey
TEXTURE	Indistinct (developed site)	Indistinct (developed site)	Smooth

PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION			
	LAND/WATER BODY	**VEGETATION**	**STRUCTURES**
FORM	Same	Same	Same
LINE	Same	Same	Same
COLOR	Same	Same	Same
TEXTURE	Same	Same	Same

DEGREE OF CONTRAST

	LAND/WATER BODY				VEGETATION				STRUCTURES			
	NONE	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	NONE	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	NONE	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH
FORM	√				√				√			
LINE	√				√				√			
COLOR	√				√				√			
TEXTURE	√				√				√			

TERM: ☑ Long ☐ Short

CONTRAST SUMMARY: ☑ None ☐ Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High

PROJECT DOMINANCE

Subordinate ☐ **Co-Dominant** ☑ **Dominant** ☐

VIEW IMPAIRMENT

None ☑ **Low** ☐ **Moderate** ☐ **High** ☐

VISUAL IMPACT SIGNIFICANCE

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
☐	☐	☐	☑